

**APPENDIX A**

1 (Currently Amended). A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing vertebrae, the assembly comprising:

a ~~first~~ vertebral screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable for threading engagement of the first vertebral screw with~~ configured to threadingly engage a vertebral body of a ~~first~~ vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion; and

a ~~first~~ connecting screw having a first end and a second end, the first end adapted configured to be substantially transversely received by the engaging portion of the ~~first~~ vertebral screw within the vertebral body of the vertebra.

~~a second vertebral screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the second vertebral screw with a vertebral body of a second vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;~~

~~a second connecting screw having a first end and a second end, the first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the second vertebral screw; and~~

~~a connecting member having a first end, a second end, a first location and a second location, wherein the connecting member is operable to couple with the first connecting screw positionable in the first vertebra at the first location of the connecting member, and the connecting member is operable to~~

~~couple with the second connecting screw positionable in the second vertebra at the second location of the connecting member for stabilization of the first vertebra and the second vertebra.~~

2 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ vertebral screw is operable configured to be positioned in the ~~first~~ vertebra from an anterior side of the ~~first~~ vertebra into the vertebral body of the ~~first~~ vertebra, ~~and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned in the second vertebra from an anterior side of the second vertebra into the vertebral body of the second vertebra.~~

3 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 2, wherein the ~~first~~ vertebral screw is operable configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the ~~first~~ vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the ~~first~~ vertebra, ~~and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the second vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the second vertebra.~~

4 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 2, wherein the ~~first~~ vertebral screw is operable configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the

~~first vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the second vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the second vertebra.~~

5 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ vertebral screw is configured to enter the vertebra through an anterior side of the vertebra~~a first anterior vertebral screw, and the second vertebral screw is a second anterior vertebral screw.~~

6 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ vertebral screw is configured to enter the vertebra through an anterior side of the vertebra~~a first pedicle screw, and the second vertebral screw is a second pedicle screw.~~

7 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a ~~wherein the connecting member is coupled to the first connecting screw outside the vertebral body of the vertebra adjacent the second end of the first connecting screw, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the second connecting screw adjacent the second end of the second connecting screw.~~

8 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 7, wherein the ~~first location of the~~ connecting member is coupled to the connecting screw at the ~~first~~ second end of the connecting ~~member~~ screw, ~~wherein the second location of the~~ connecting member is at the second end of the connecting member.

9 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the connecting ~~member~~ screw is configured to be positioned in the vertebra from an anterior side of the vertebra into the vertebral body of the vertebra ~~coupled to the first~~ connecting screw at the second end of the first connecting screw, ~~wherein the connecting member is coupled to the second~~ connecting screw at the second end of the second connecting screw.

10 (Currently Amended). A method for stabilizing a ~~lower~~ vertebra and an upper vertebra from an anterior side of the vertebrae using a vertebral stabilization assembly, the method comprising:

inserting a ~~first~~ vertebral screw, which includes a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable~~ configured to threadingly engage ~~the lower~~ a vertebra, into the ~~lower~~ vertebra from an anterior side of the ~~lower~~ vertebra such that a portion

of the threaded portion of the shaft engages a vertebral body portion of the ~~lower~~ vertebra, the shaft of the ~~first~~ vertebral screw having an engaging portion ~~operable~~ configured to receive a ~~first~~ connecting screw, and the shaft of the ~~first~~ vertebral screw having a coupling portion ~~operable~~ configured to couple with a guide member;

~~inserting a second vertebral screw, which includes a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable to threadingly engage the upper vertebra, into the upper vertebra from an anterior side of the upper vertebra such that a portion of the threaded portion of the shaft engages a vertebral body portion of the upper vertebra, the shaft of the second vertebral screw having an engaging portion operable to receive a second connecting screw, and the shaft of the second vertebral screw having a coupling portion operable to couple with the guide member;~~

locating the coupling portion of the shaft of the ~~first~~ vertebral screw from an anterior side of the ~~lower~~ vertebra;

coupling the guide member to the coupling portion of the shaft of the ~~first~~ vertebral screw from the anterior side of the ~~lower~~ vertebra; and

inserting a ~~lower~~ connecting screw, which includes a first end ~~adapted~~ configured to be received by the engaging portion of the ~~first~~ vertebral screw and a second end, ~~the lower connecting screw inserted~~ through the anterior side of the ~~lower~~ vertebra

using the guide member.

~~locating the coupling portion of the shaft of the second vertebral screw from an anterior side of the upper vertebra;~~

~~coupling the guide member to the coupling portion of the shaft of the second vertebral screw from the anterior side of the upper vertebra;~~

~~inserting an upper connecting screw, which includes a first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the second vertebral screw and a second end, the upper connecting screw inserted through the anterior side of the upper vertebra using the guide member; and~~

~~connecting the second end of the lower connecting screw of the lower vertebra to the second end of the upper connecting screw of the upper vertebra with a connecting member.~~

11 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 10, wherein the ~~first~~ vertebral screw is operable configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the ~~lower~~ vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the ~~lower~~ vertebra, ~~and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the upper vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the upper vertebra.~~

12 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 11, wherein the

~~first~~ vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the ~~lower~~ vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the ~~lower~~ vertebra, ~~and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the upper vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the upper vertebra.~~

13 (Currently Amended). A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing vertebrae comprising:

a ~~first~~ pedicle screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable for threading engagement of~~ configured to threadingly engage the ~~first pedicle screw with a first~~ vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion; and

a ~~first~~ connecting screw having a first end adapted configured to be substantially transversely received by the engaging portion of the ~~first~~ pedicle screw within the ~~first~~ vertebra.;

~~a second pedicle screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the pedicle screw with a second vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;~~

~~a second connecting screw having a first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the second pedicle screw within the second vertebra; and~~

~~a connecting member having a first end and a second end,  
the first end of the connecting member connected to the first  
connecting screw positionable in the first vertebra, the second  
end of the connecting member connected to the second connecting  
screw positionable in the second vertebra for stabilization of  
the first vertebra and the second vertebra.~~

14 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 13, wherein the pedicle screw is configured to be positioned in the vertebra from an anterior side of the vertebra into a vertebral body of the vertebra ~~connecting member is defined as a rod.~~

15 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 13~~4~~, wherein the pedicle screw is configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the vertebra ~~first and second connecting screws are provided with coupling portions operable to couple the first and second connecting screws with the connecting member.~~

16 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 15~~3~~, wherein the pedicle screw is configured to enter the vertebra through an anterior side of the vertebra ~~coupling~~



~~portions of the first and second connecting screws are further defined as a threaded end of the first and second connecting screws.~~

17 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 13, wherein the pedicle screw is configured to enter the vertebra through a pedicle of the vertebra ~~connecting member connected to the first and second connecting screw is sized to retain the first vertebra disposed a distance from the second vertebra.~~

18 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 13, further comprising a ~~wherein the connecting member coupled to the connecting screw outside a vertebral body of the vertebra is sized to retain the first vertebra disposed so as to prevent contact with the second vertebra.~~

19 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 13~~8~~, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the connecting screw at a second end of the connecting screw ~~defined as a bracket.~~

20 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 13, wherein the connecting screw is configured to be

positioned in the vertebra from an anterior side of the vertebra into a vertebral body of the vertebra ~~connecting member is defined as a plate.~~

21 (Currently Amended). A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing vertebrae and an item to assist with installation of the assembly, the combination comprising:

a ~~first~~ pedicle screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable for threading engagement of the first pedicle screw with~~ configured to threadingly engage a first vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;

a first connecting screw having a first end adapted configured to be substantially transversely received by the engaging portion of the ~~first~~ pedicle screw within the ~~first~~ vertebra; and

~~a second pedicle screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the pedicle screw with a second vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;~~

~~a second connecting screw having a first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the second pedicle screw within the second vertebra;~~

~~a connecting member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the connecting member connected to the first~~

~~connecting screw positionable in the first vertebra, the second end of the connecting member connected to the second connecting screw positionable in the second vertebra for stabilization of the first vertebra and the second vertebra; and~~

a bore screw having a shaft and a threaded portion, the bore screw operable configured to bore an opening in the vertebra for placement of the ~~first and second~~ pedicle screws.

22 (Currently Amended). A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing vertebrae and an item to assist with installation of the assembly, the combination comprising:

a ~~first~~ pedicle screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable for threading engagement of the first pedicle screw with~~ configured to threadingly engage a first vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;

a ~~first~~ connecting screw having a first end ~~adapted~~ configured to be substantially transversely received by the engaging portion of the ~~first~~ pedicle screw within the ~~first~~ vertebra; and

~~a second pedicle screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the pedicle screw with a second vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;~~

~~a second connecting screw having a first end adapted to be~~

~~received by the engaging portion of the second pedicle screw within the second vertebra;~~

~~a connecting member having a first end and a second end, the first end of the connecting member connected to the first connecting screw positionable in the first vertebra, the second end of the connecting member connected to the second connecting screw positionable in the second vertebra for stabilization of the first vertebra and the second vertebra; and~~

a tool ~~operable~~ configured to engage at least the ~~first~~ connecting screw for connection of at least the ~~first~~ connecting screw to the ~~first~~ pedicle screw.

23 (Currently Amended). The combination of Claim 22, further including a tool ~~operable~~ configured to engage at least the ~~first~~ connecting screw for removal of at least the ~~first~~ connecting screw from the ~~first~~ pedicle screw.

24 (Currently Amended). The combination of Claim 22, further including a tool ~~operable~~ configured to engage at least the ~~first~~ pedicle screw for threading engagement of at least the ~~first~~ pedicle screw in the ~~first~~ vertebra.

25 (Currently Amended). The combination of Claim 22, further including a tool ~~operable~~ configured to engage at least the

~~first~~ pedicle screw for stabilization of at least the ~~first~~ pedicle screw while removing the connecting screw.

26 (Currently Amended). The combination of Claim 22, wherein the ~~first~~ pedicle screw and ~~the second pedicle screw~~ have has a coupling portion ~~operable~~ configured to couple with a guide member, and further including a guide member ~~operable~~ configured to couple with the coupling portion of the ~~first~~ pedicle screw and ~~the second pedicle screw~~.